

# 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> District Budget Survey Results

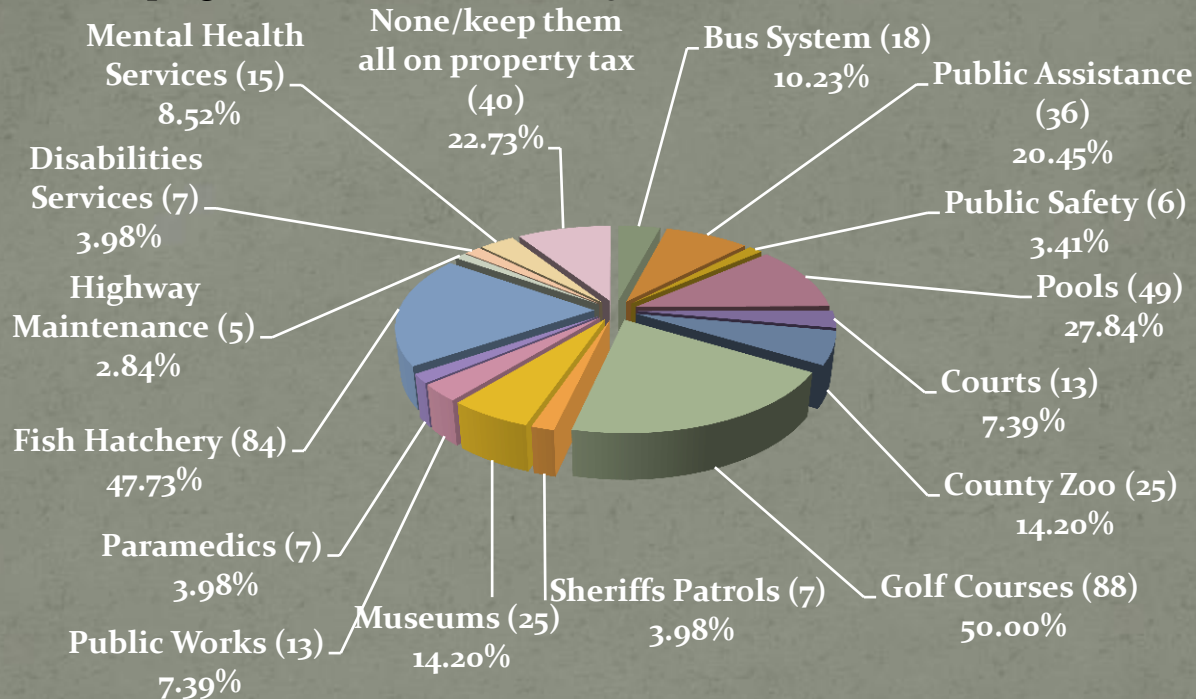
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# How the Survey was Conducted

- Over 4500 surveys were distributed to constituents of 2<sup>nd</sup> District via mail or email. A total of 176 (approximately 4%) responses were reported via phone, email and postal mail. Respondents surveyed identified key services and programs to preserve, as well as which should be cut for the 2011 Milwaukee County budget. Results were tabulated in an excel spread sheet. The analysis presents the results of the survey in both charts and text.

# Section 1- COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Ques. 1 Which programs should be cut to bring property taxes down in Milwaukee County?**

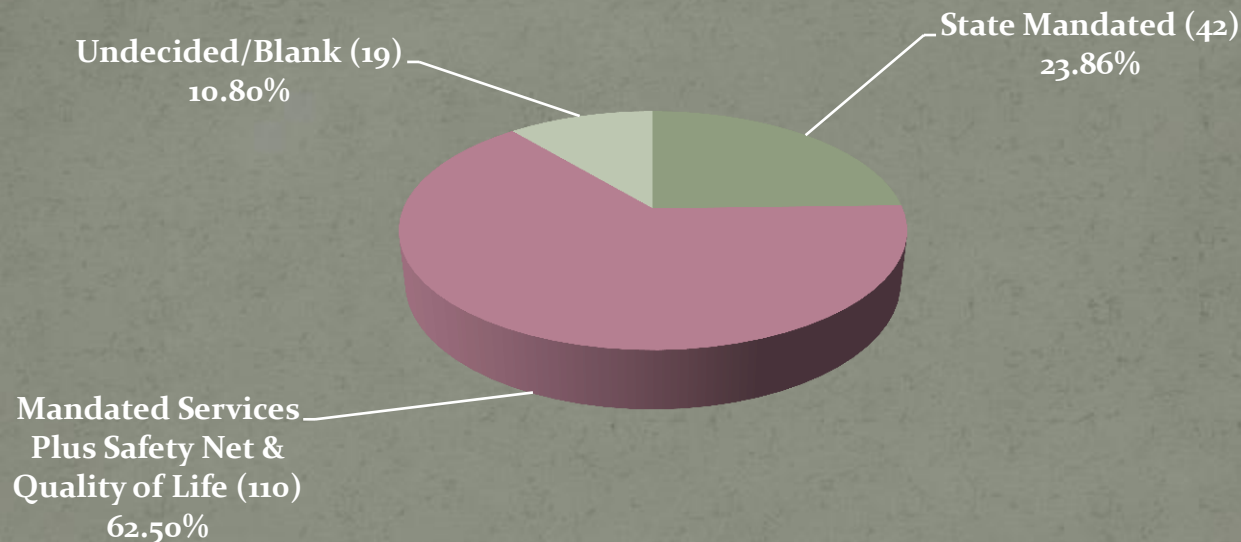


Respondents expressed that Golf Courses, Fish Hatchery, and Pools are the most favorable programs in Milwaukee County that need to be cut to bring down property taxes. Respondents moderately suggested cutting no programs and keeping them all on the property tax. Disabilities Services, Paramedics, Sheriff's Patrols, Public Safety, and Highway Maintenance were identified by respondents as the least favorable programs to be cut in Milwaukee County.



# Section 1- COUNTY GOVERNMENT cont.

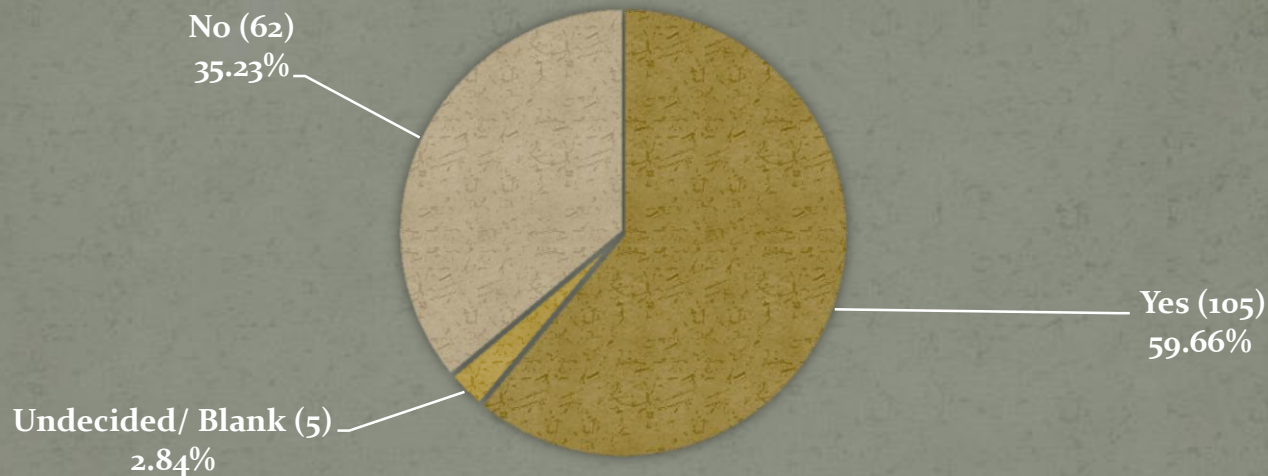
**Ques. 2** Should Milwaukee County Provide:



Over 60% of respondents stated that Milwaukee County should provide Mandated Services Plus Safety Net & Quality of Life Services to individuals. These Mandated services Plus Safety Net services consist of Public Safety\*, Courts, Sheriff Patrols, Public Works\*, Disabilities Services and Mental Health Care. Quality of Life services include: Bus System, Public Assistance, County Zoo, Golf Courses, Museums, Paramedics, and Fish Hatchery. A further 24% of respondents only want State Mandated services provided by Milwaukee County.

## Section 1- COUNTY GOVERNMENT cont.

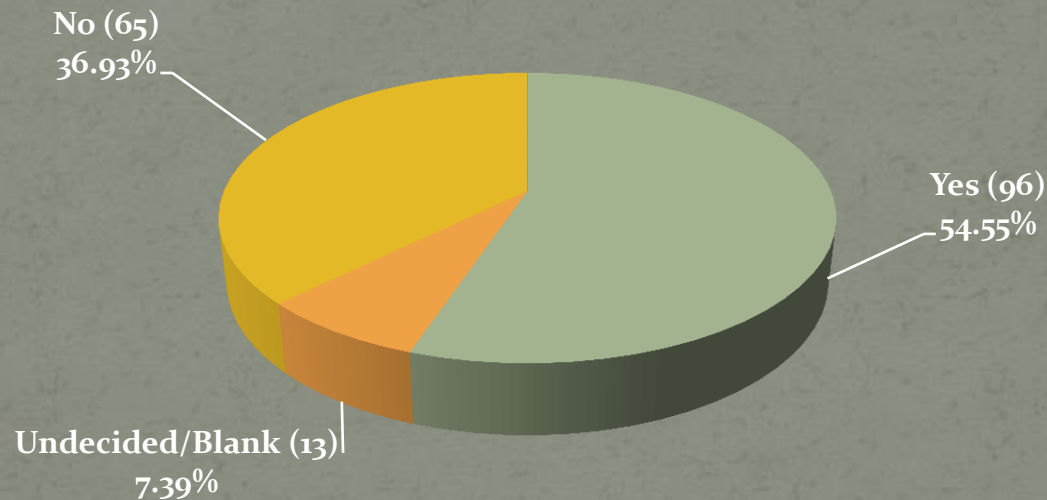
**Ques. 3** Do you support a **Sales Tax Increase** to lower property Taxes and provide more stable funding for the bus system and parks?



Approximately 60% of respondents are in favor of supporting a sales tax increase to lower the property Taxes and stabilizing funding for bus system and parks. Over 35% reported they would not support a Sales Tax increase to lower the property Taxes and stabilizing funding for bus system and parks.

# Section 2- MASS TRANSIT

**Ques.1** Do you support a **25-cent Transit fare increase** (to \$2.50) to preserve

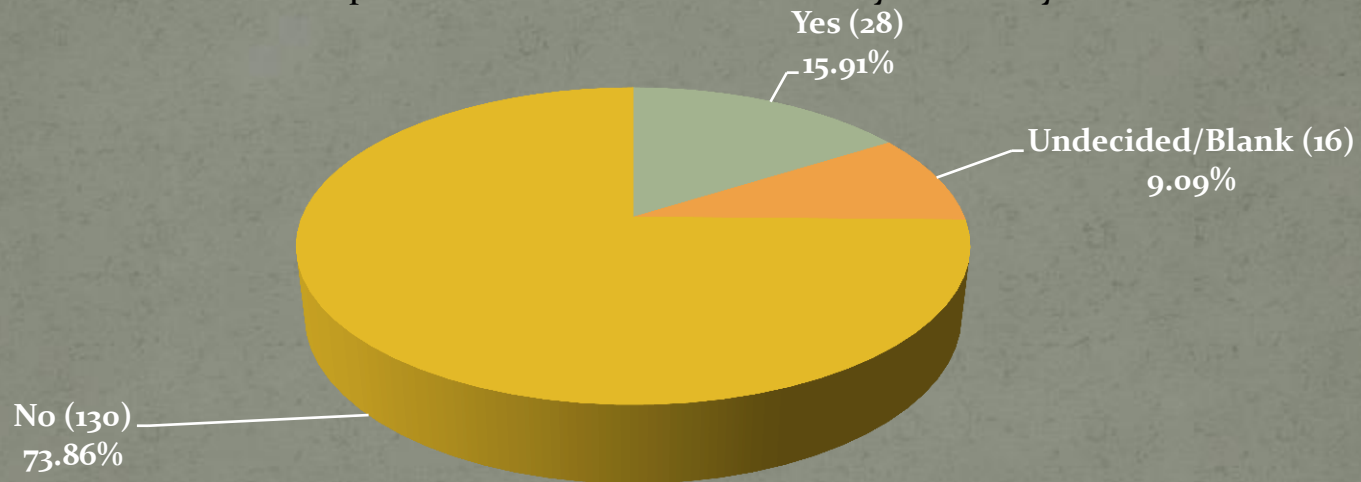


Over 50% of respondents stated that would support the 25-cent transit fare increase to preserve routes within Milwaukee County Transit System. Over 35% stated that they would not support raising the fares of Milwaukee County Transit.



## Section 2- MASS TRANSIT cont.

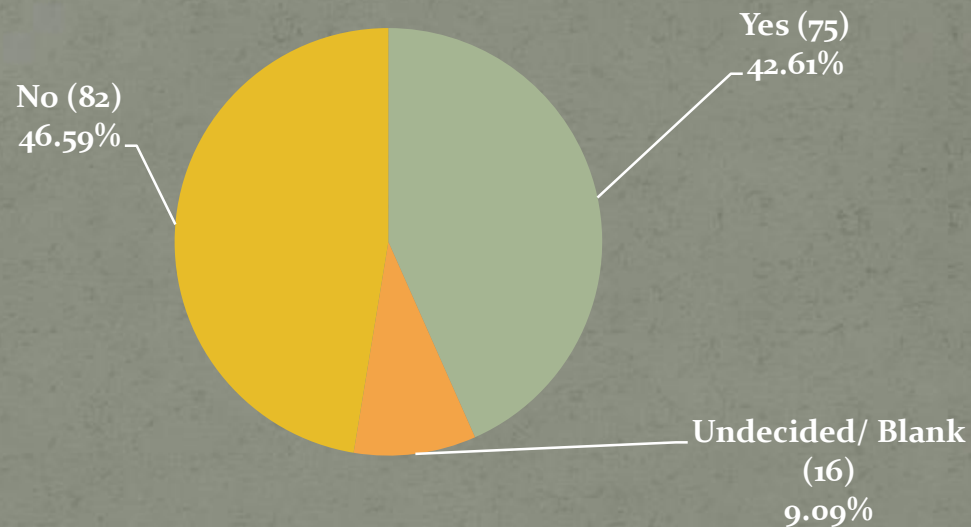
**Ques.2** Do you support elimination of **inner city bus routes and reduced route times** to help stabilize the Milwaukee County Transit system?



Respondents in majority ( over 70%) indicated they do not support eliminating inner city bus routes and reduced route times to stabilize Milwaukee County transit system. Less than 20% expressed eliminating inner city bus routes and reduced route times to help stabilize Milwaukee County Transit System.

## Section 2- MASS TRANSIT cont.

**Ques. 3 (Part 1)** Do you Support **Bus Rapid Transit** for Milwaukee County?

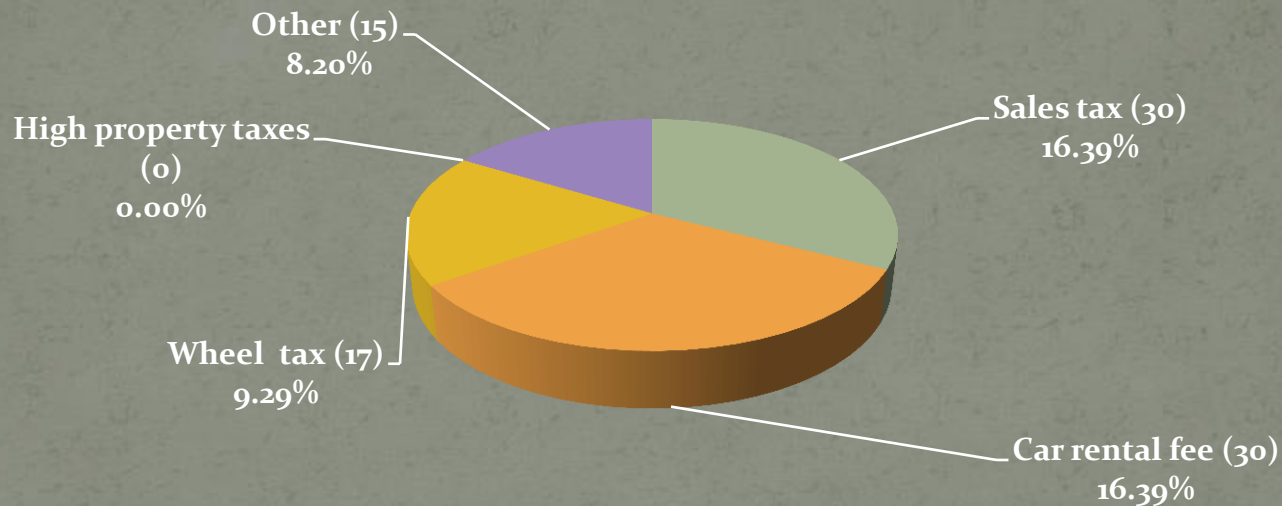


Responses were almost split in this category. Over 45% stated that they would not support Bus Rapid Transit, due to the fact they have a current transit system in place. Over 40% expressed they would support Bus Rapid Transit for Milwaukee County.



## Section 2- MASS TRANSIT cont.

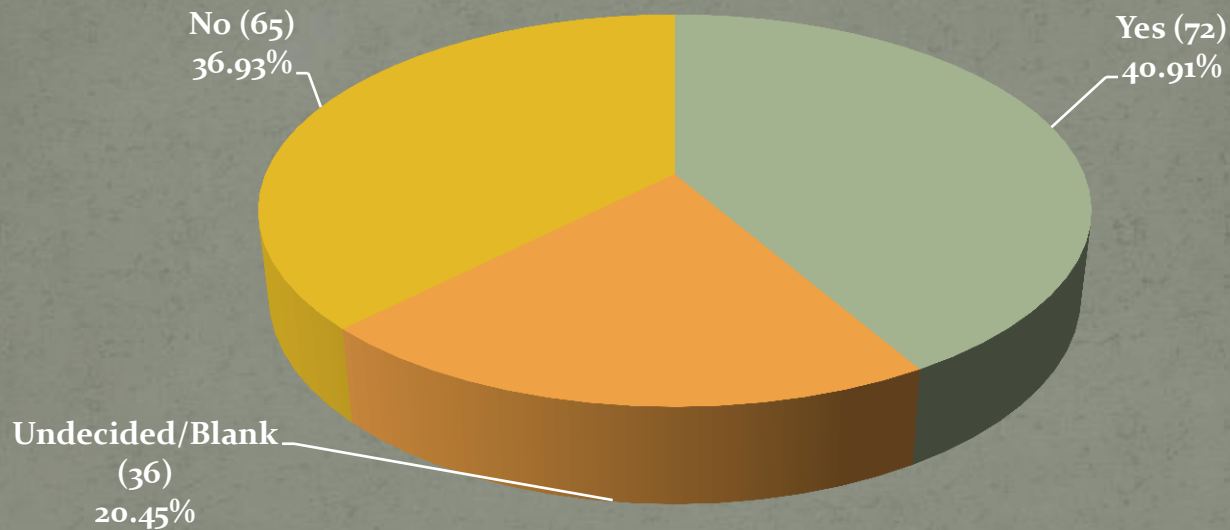
**Ques. 3 (Part 2)** If yes, how should **transit improvements** be funded?



Respondents that answered yes to Part I of the question 3 indicated a tax to fund Bus Rapid Transit. Surveyors indicated that Sales tax and Car rental fees should increase to fund Bus Rapid Transit. Approximately 10% would support a wheel tax. 9% stated other taxes should increase to fund Bus Rapid Transit. These taxes consist of increased fares of BRT users, Taxing upper class and cigarette tax.

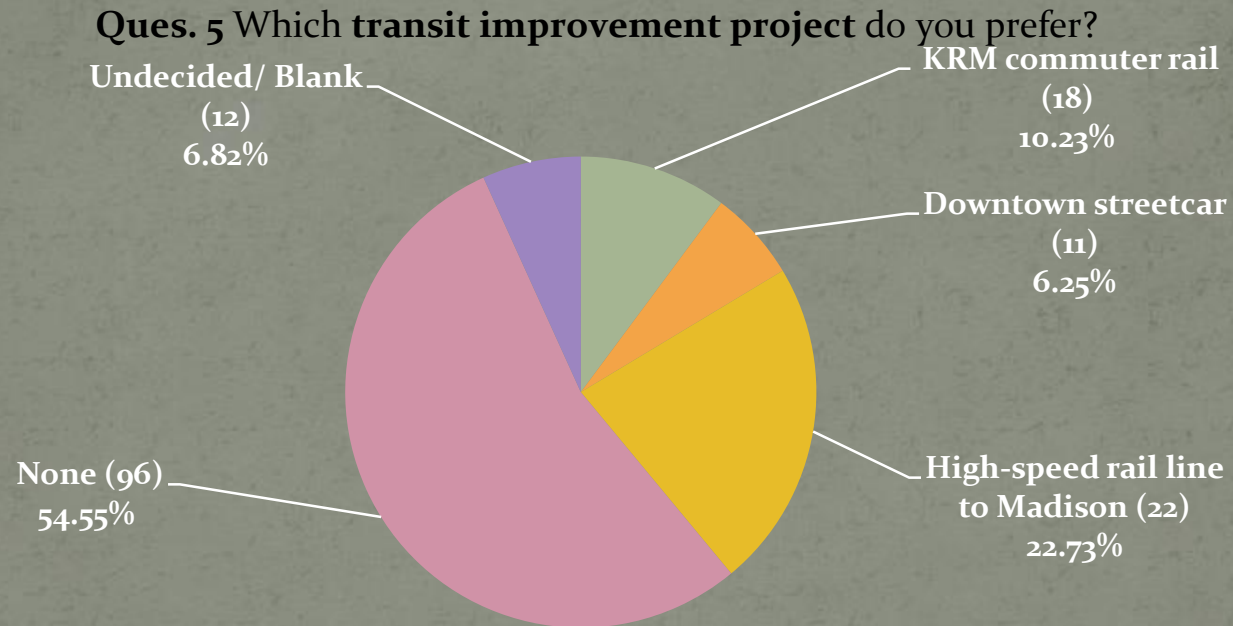
## Section 2- MASS TRANSIT cont.

**Ques. 4** Should Milwaukee County Transit System bring back the **Transit call center**?



Over 40% Respondents indicated that Milwaukee County should bring back the Transit Call center. This system assists patrons with route information and transit riders can speak with a live operator. Over 35% stated the Transit Call Center should not return. 20% were undecided or left the question blank.

## Section 2- MASS TRANSIT cont.

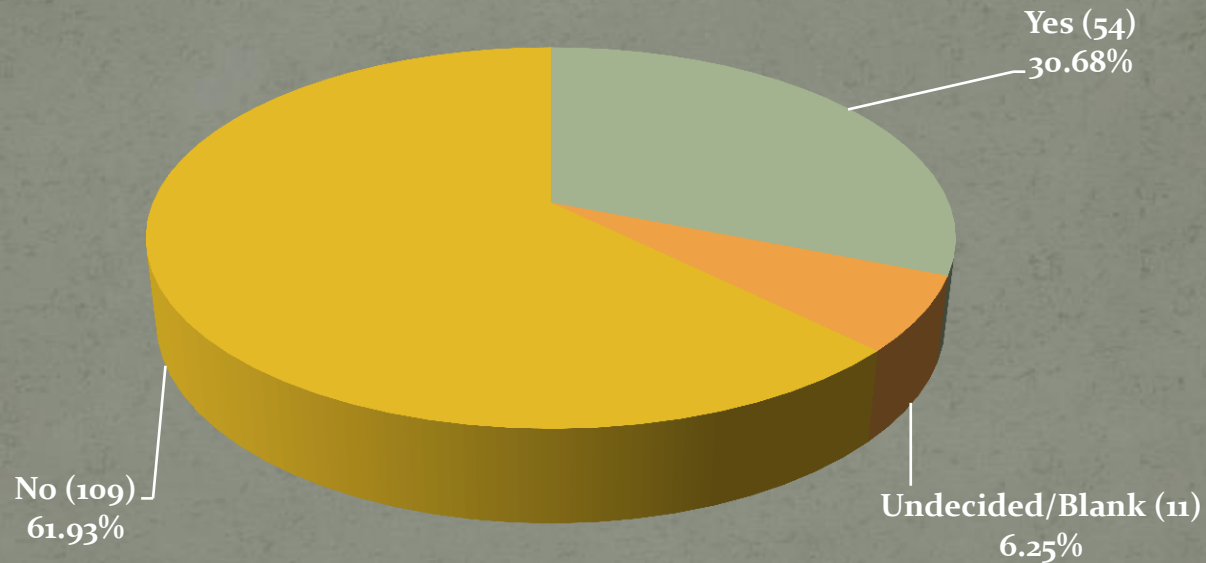


An overwhelming majority of respondents ( over 54%) indicated they would not prefer a transit improvement project in Milwaukee County. Approximately 23% of respondents stated that they would prefer a High-speed rail line to Madison. Over 10% preferred KRM commuter rail and, 6% would prefer a Downtown streetcar.



# Section 3- MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS

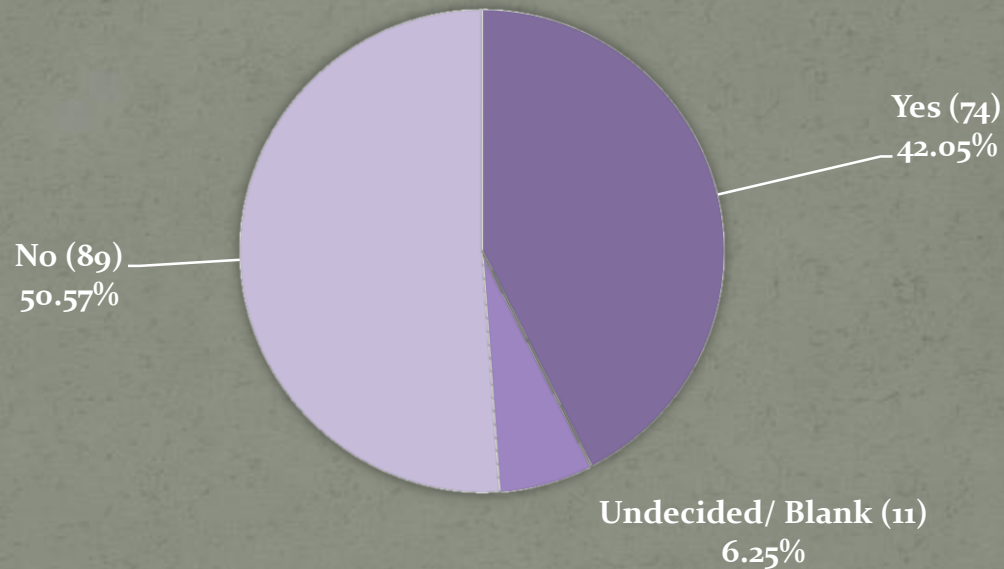
**Ques. 1** Should Milwaukee County **sell or lease parkland** to private firms for redevelopment?



Over 60% of respondents expressed they would not want to sell or lease Milwaukee County parkland to a private firm for redevelopment. 31% stated that they would sell or lease Milwaukee County parkland to private firm for redevelopment.

## Section 3- MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS cont.

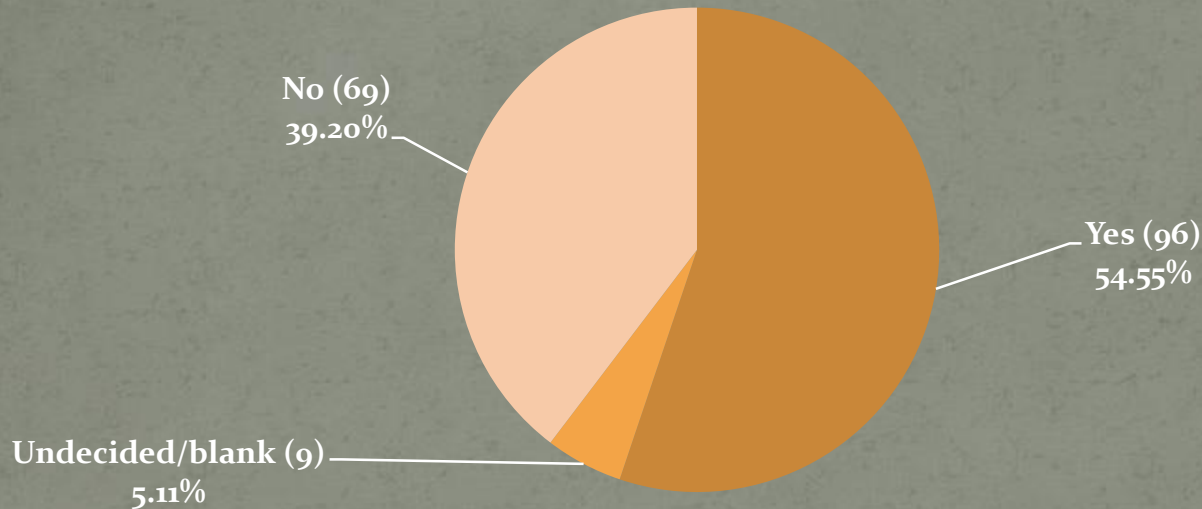
**Ques. 2** Do you support **closing neighborhood pools** that don't generate a profit?



Roughly 50% Respondents stated that they do not support closing neighborhood pools that don't generate a profit. Responses mostly expressed that closing pools would hurt children and families that utilize these facilities. Over 40% recommended closing neighborhood pools that don't generate a profit.

## Section 3- MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS cont.

**Ques. 3** Do you favor selling **golf courses** owned by Milwaukee County?

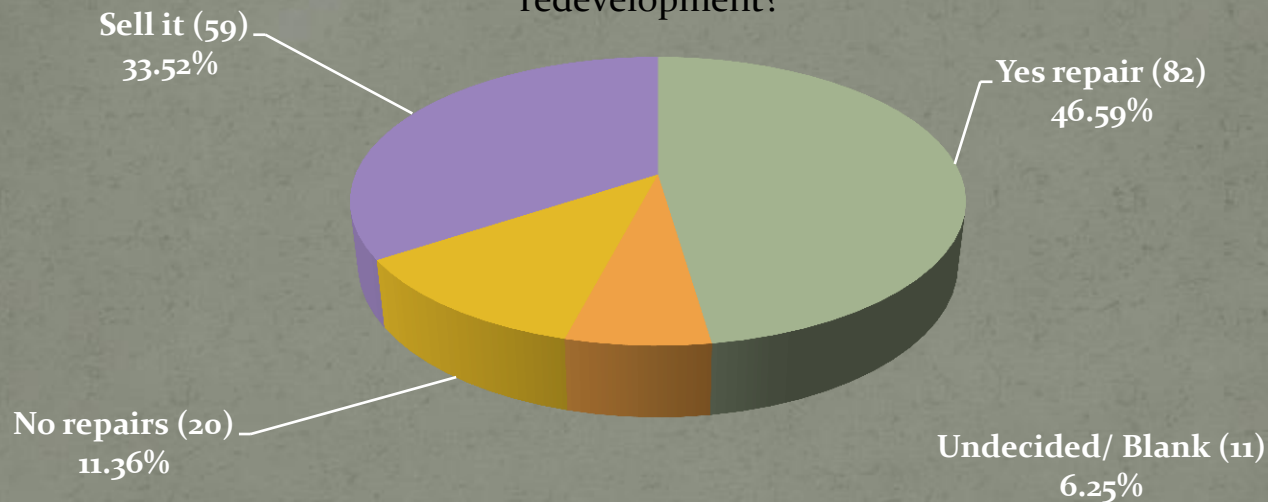


Of the total responses, approximately 55% are in favor of selling golf courses owned by Milwaukee County. Approximately 40% do not recommend selling golf courses by Milwaukee County.



## Section 3- MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS cont.

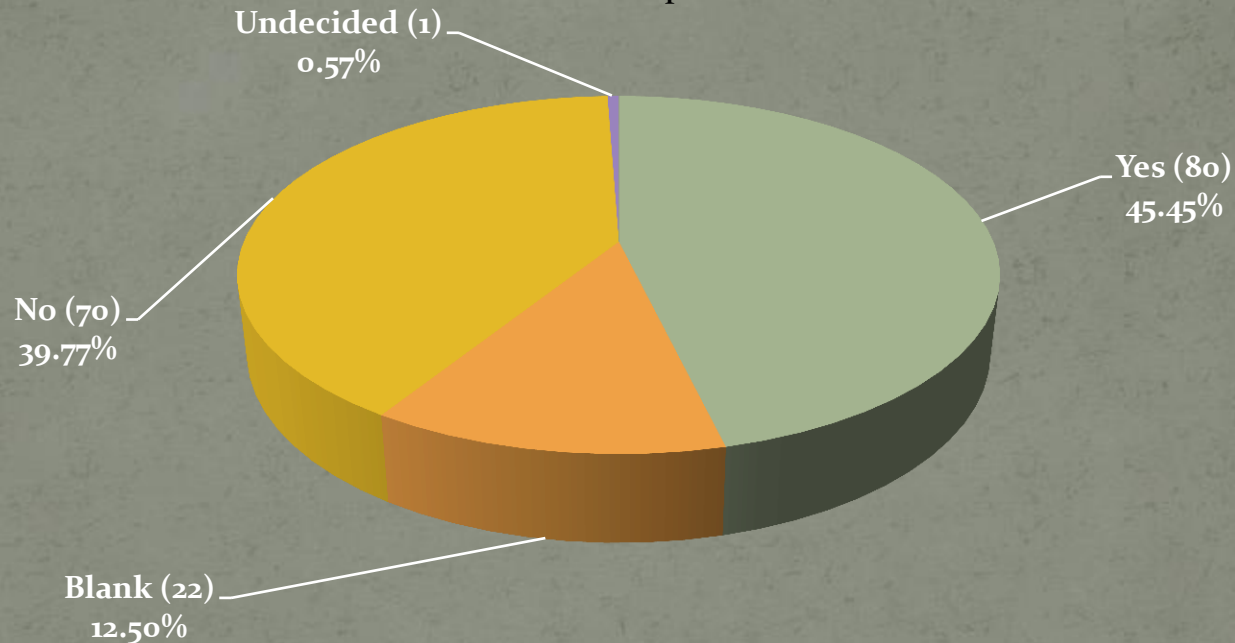
**Ques. 4** Should Milwaukee County make safety repairs to the **O'Donnell Park parking garage** or sell it to a private firm for demolition and/or lakefront redevelopment?



Over 45% of respondents stated that O'Donnell Park parking garage should be repaired. Approximately 12% mentioned that no repairs should be made. Over 30% expressed that O'Donnell Park parking garage should be sold to a private firm for demolition and/ or lakefront redevelopment.

## Section 3- MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS cont.

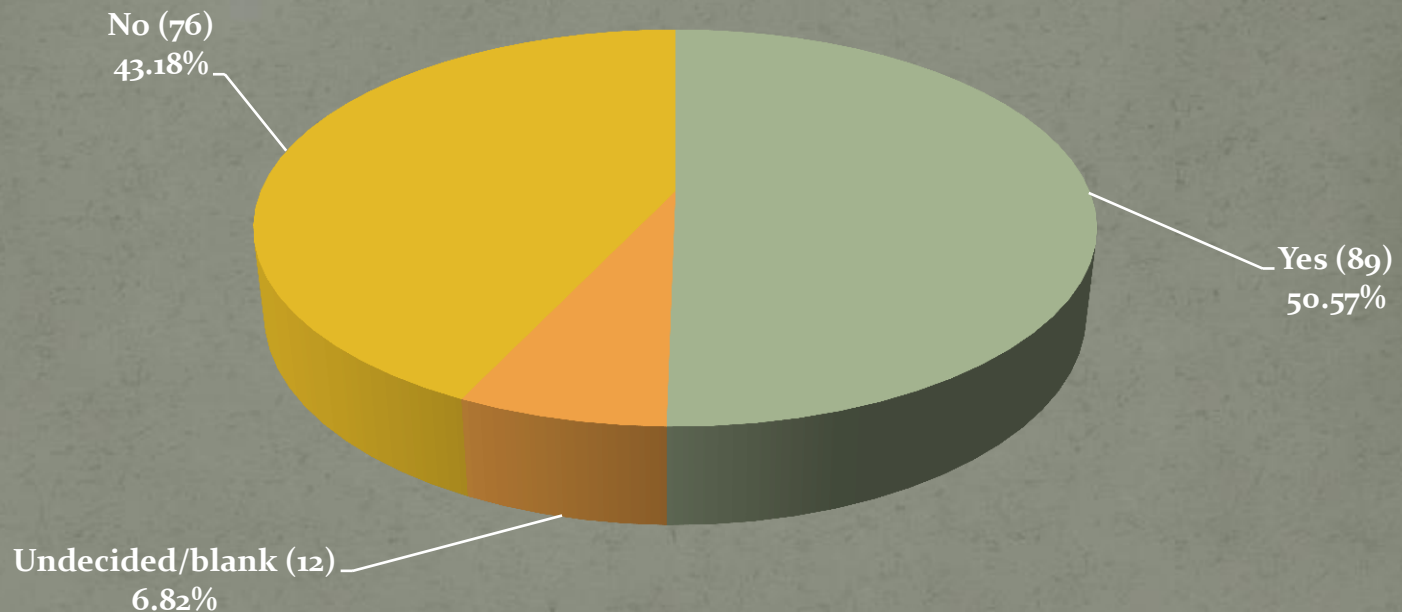
**Ques. 5** Should Milwaukee County sell the **Downtown Transit Center** as part of lakefront development?



Approximately 46% of Respondents recommended selling the Downtown Transit Center as part of lakefront redevelopment. 40% disagreed with selling the Downtown Transit Center as part of lakefront redevelopment. Over 13% left this question blank or undecided.

# Section 4- JOB CREATION

**Ques. 1** Should Milwaukee County play a role in **creating jobs**, or should job creation be left entirely to the private sector?

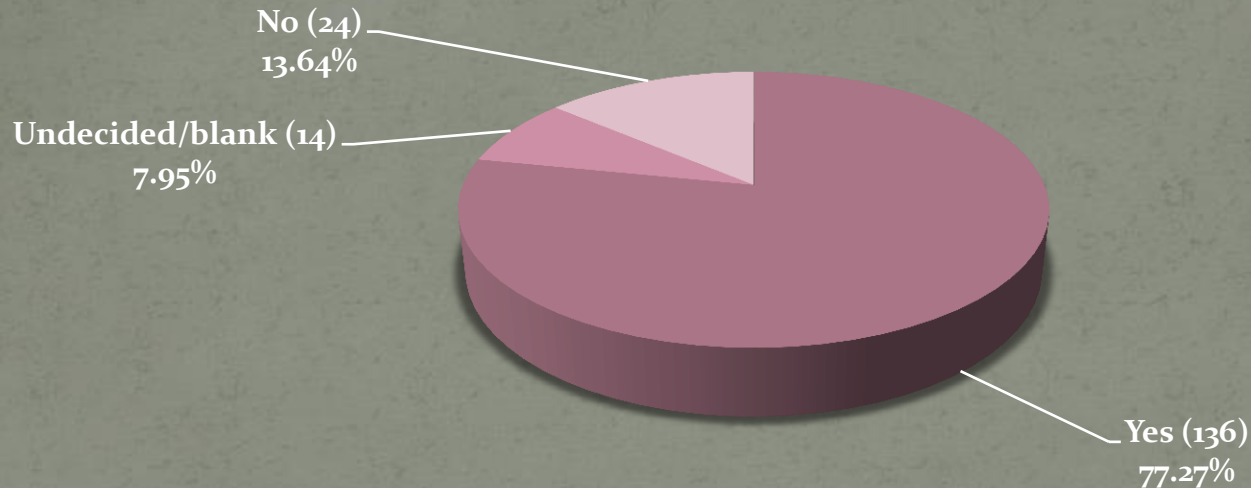


Over 50% of respondents expressed that Milwaukee County should play a role in creating jobs. 43% stated that job creation should be left entirely to the private sector.



## Section 4- JOB CREATION Cont.

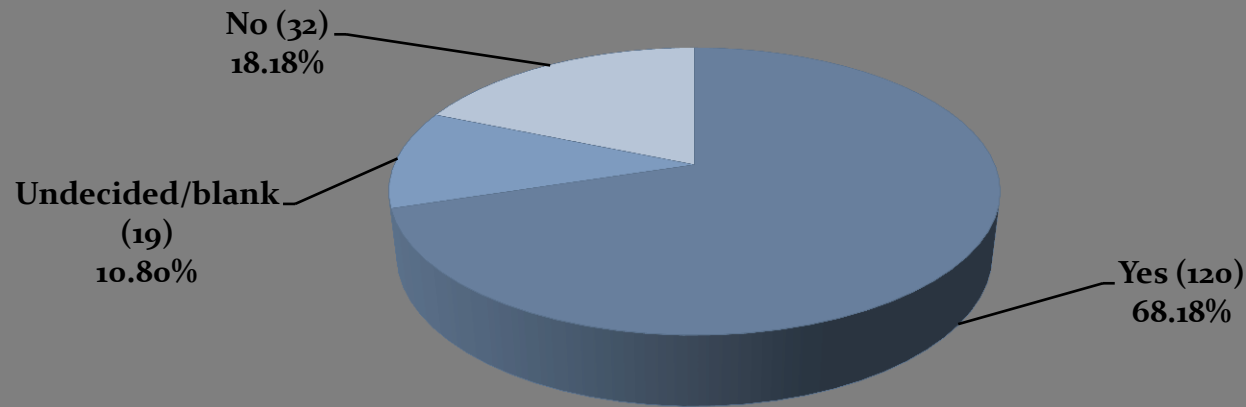
**Ques. 2** Should Milwaukee County **partner with other local governments** on economic development efforts?



75% of the respondents indicated that Milwaukee County should partner with other local governments on economic development efforts. 13% stated that Milwaukee County should not partner with other local governments on economic development efforts.

# Section 4- JOB CREATION Cont.

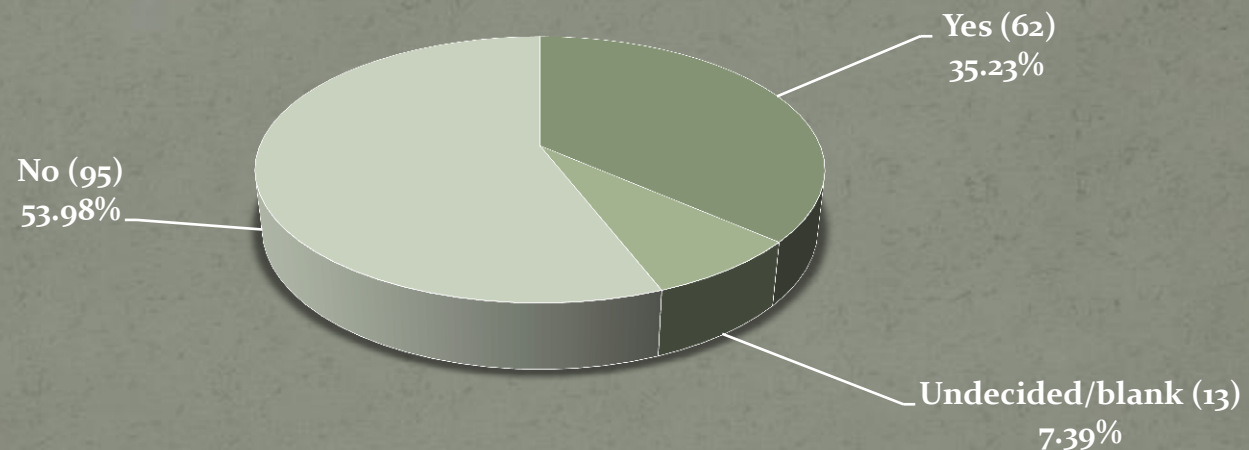
**Ques. 3** Should Milwaukee County **pursue additional economic development** and job creation by developing TIF (tax incremental funding) districts and working



Over 65% of respondents are in favor of pursuing additional economic development and job creation by developing TIF (tax incremental funding) districts and working with HUD to provide gap financing to bring businesses back to Milwaukee County. Approximately 18% surveyed, do not recommend Milwaukee County pursuing additional economic development and job creation by developing TIF (tax incremental funding) districts and working with HUD to provide gap financing to bring businesses back to Milwaukee County.

# Section 5- MENTAL HEALTH CARE

**Ques. 1** Should Milwaukee County build a new, state- of - the -art **mental health complex** on the County Grounds?

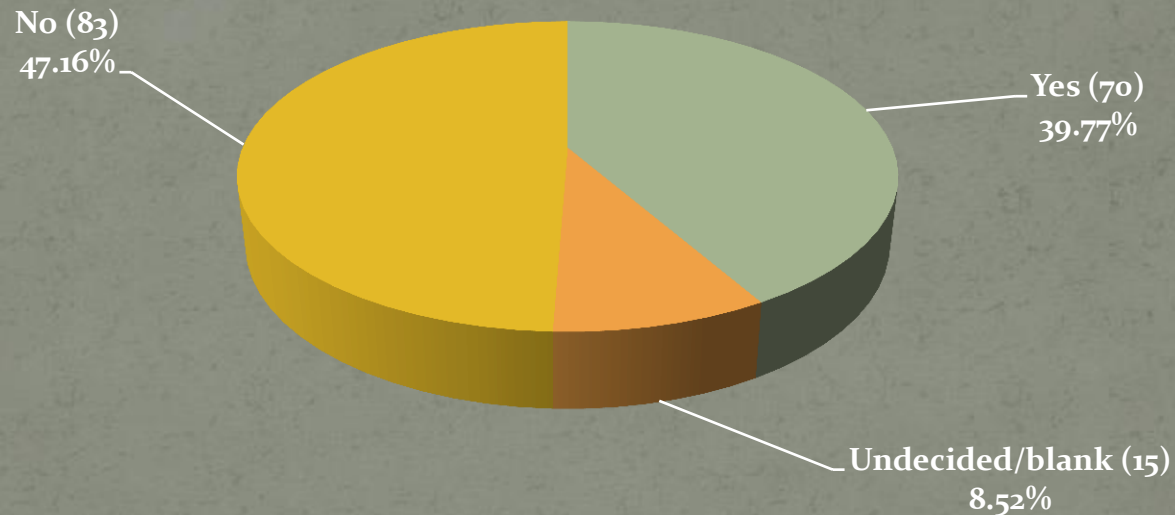


Approximately 54% of respondents stated that they would not support building a new mental health complex on Milwaukee County grounds. Roughly 36% indicated they would support a new mental health complex on Milwaukee County grounds.



## Section 5- MENTAL HEALTH CARE cont.

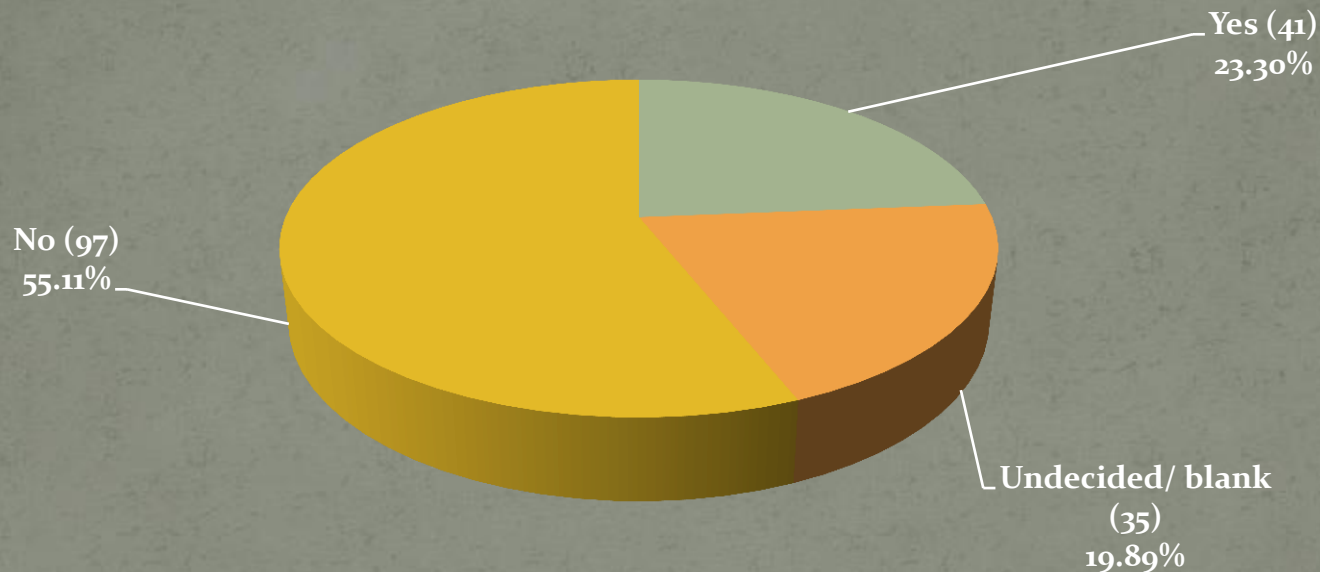
**Ques. 2** Do you support the **privatization of mental health care** services in Milwaukee County?



47% of respondents do not support the privatization of mental health care services in Milwaukee County. Approximately 40% support privatization of mental health care services in Milwaukee County.

# Section 6- TAXES

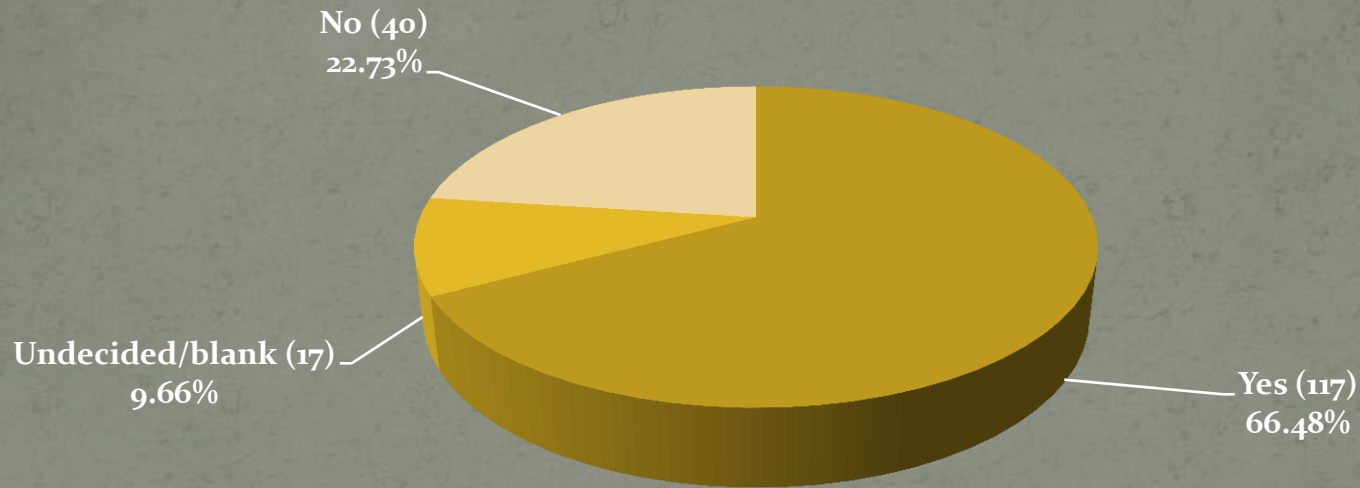
**Ques. 1** Should Milwaukee County "break the bank" to fund all **safety net programs**?



Over 55% of respondents reported they do not support Milwaukee County breaking the bank in effort to fund all safety net programs. 23% reported that Milwaukee County should break the bank to fund all safety net programs. Approximately 20% were undecided or left the question blank.

# Section 6- TAXES cont.

**Ques. 2** Do you support a **property tax levy freeze**?

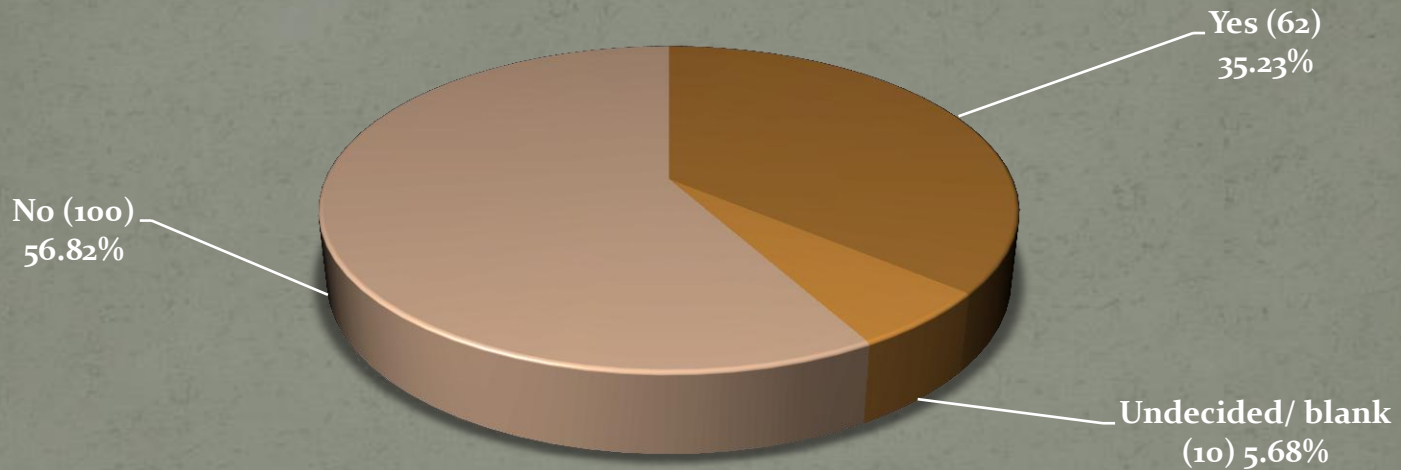


Over 65% of respondents are in favor of supporting a property tax levy freeze. Over 20% do not support a property tax levy freeze. Almost 10% of respondents are undecided or left the question blank.



## Section 6- TAXES cont.

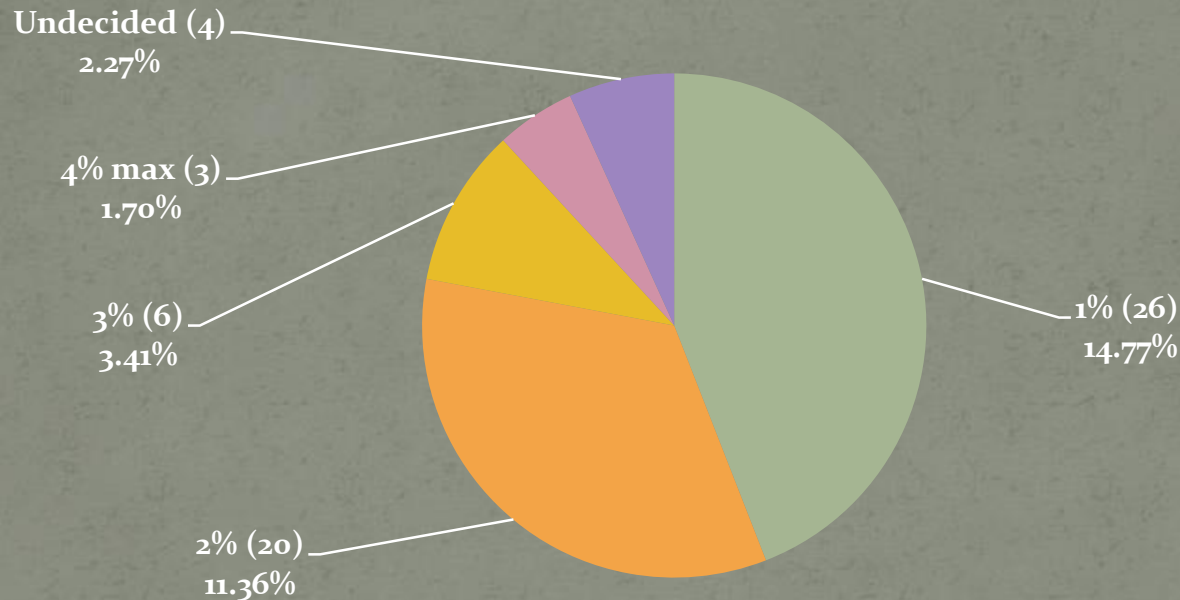
**Ques. 3 (Part 1)** do you support **increasing property taxes** to maintain services at the same level?



Over 55% respondents oppose supporting increasing the property taxes to maintain services at the same level. 35% favor increasing property taxes to maintain services at the same level.

## Section 6- TAXES cont.

**Ques. 3 (Part 2)** If yes, indicate the property tax levy increase most acceptable to you.



For respondents that indicated yes to part I, approximately 15% mentioned they would acknowledge a 1% increase in the property tax levy. 12% acknowledged a 2% increase in the property tax levy. 3% suggested a 3% increase in property tax levy. Less than 2% recommended a 4% maximum level in the property tax levy. Over 2% of respondents were undecided.

# Conclusion

Respondents voiced their opinions and concerns as tax payers of Milwaukee County. Their responses are shaping our commitment efforts on issues in the County that will make the biggest impact within the district and the County as a whole. Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey.